

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01496 121504Z
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R 121230Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 1496

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR RH, TZ, UK
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON OWEN VISIT
TO AFRICA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

1. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN ARRIVED DAR ES SALAAM
APRIL 11 AND CONFERRED SEPARATELY WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER
ROBERT MUGABE AND PRESIDENT NYERERE. HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING
AT ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE THAT BRITAIN STILL BELIEVED MAJORITY RULE
IN RHODESIA COULD BE ACHIEVED PEACEFULLY. HE WAS BRINGING IDEAS ON
SETTLEMENT BUT NO BLUEPRINT. BRITAIN WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THE
TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY BEFORE A CONSTITUTIONALCONFERENCE.
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2. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF APRIL 12 CARRIED FRONT PAGE
EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON OWEN VISIT.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN, ARRIVED IN
DAR ES SALAAM YESTERDAY AT THE START OF HIS DIPLOMATIC FORAY

INTO SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE LEAVES THIS MORNING FOR MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA.

BEFORE LEAVING LONDON, DR. OWEN SAID HE NEEDED A LOT OF GOOD-WILL TO BE ABLE TO SECURE AGREEMENT FOR WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS NEW PROPOSALS THAT HE THINKS WILL LEAD ZIMBABWE TO INDEPENDENCE NEXT YEAR.

THE NEW SET OF PROPOSALS TURNED OUT TO BE MERELY "NEW IDEAS" ON HOW TO BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE PEACEFULLY RATHER THAN BY VIOLENT MEANS, ACCORDING TO DR. OWEN HIMSELF AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM YESTERDAY.

THESE "NEW IDEAS" ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT JOINTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES, FROM WHERE THE ORIGINAL POLITICAL MOMENTUM THAT LED TO THE ABORTIVE GENEVA CONFERENCE CAME.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY INCLUDE THE IDEA OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE TO DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. NO "NEW IDEAS" ARE BEING PUT FORWARD ON THE BASIC ISSUE OF THE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE WHITE-MINORITY REBEL REGIME TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY, OVER WHICH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BROKE DOWN.

UNFORTUNATELY THE IDEA OF A CONFERENCE TO WORK OUT A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE IS NOT NEW AT ALL. IT WAS BROUGHT UP BEFORE BUT FOUND TO BE UNREALISTIC BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE CAN ONLY BE WORKED OUT AFTER AN AFRICA

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MAJORITY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ZIMBABWE, NOT BEFORE.

IN ANY CASE, SMITH HAS REJECTED AFRICAN MAJORITY RULE THAT IS NOT OF HIS DEFINITION. UNLESS, BRITAIN IS WILLING AND ABLE TO ENFORCE THE DECISIONS OF YET ANOTHER CONFERENCE, THE EXERCISE OF CALLING ANOTHER CONFERENCE MIGHT INDEED TURN OUT TO BE WORSE THAN USELESS.

AFRICA HAS TRIED TO TALK SMITH INTO SURRENDERING POWER TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY AND HAS FAILED. THAT IS WHY THE FRONTLINE STATES HAVE DECLARED: THERE IS NO MORE REASON FOR TALKING. NOW, WE FIGHT.

IT IS NOT THAT THE AFRICANS OF ZIMBABWE OR ANY OTHER PART OF AFRICA LOVE VIOLENCE. FAR FROM IT, BUT THE LESSON OF THE PAST BITTER EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE SMITH REGIME WILL NOT SURRENDER ON A CONFERENCE TABLE WHAT IT HAS NOT LOST ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

WE WISH DR OWEN A NICE SAFARI IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HOPE
THAT AT THE END OF IT ALL, HE WILLBE ABLE TO SAY: I CAME, I SAW AND
I UNDERSTOOD". END TEXT.
SPAIN

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